

# TENT TALK

SOMETIMES THE ONLY THING THAT STANDS BETWEEN YOU AND A HARD WINTER'S NIGHT IS YOUR TENT.

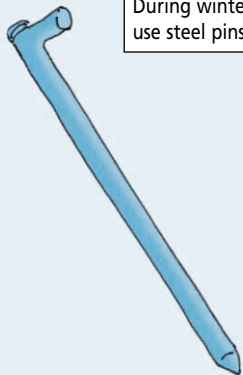
PROTECT IT AND IT'LL PROTECT YOU.



## Tent Pins

Use 12-in steel pins, NSN 8340-00-823-7451, instead of the usual aluminum pins. If the ground's frozen hard and you can't pound the steel pins in, here's a solution: Chop small holes in the ground for them. Then fill the holes with slush or water. It'll freeze and anchor the pins.

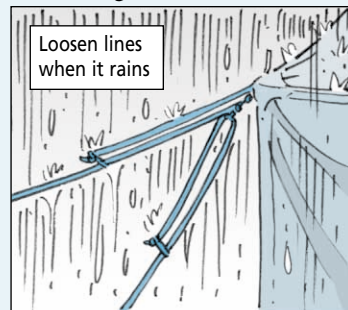
Remove pins from frozen ground by chopping the ground around them until they loosen up. Never pound them sideways to loosen them. You'll just bend them and make them unusable.



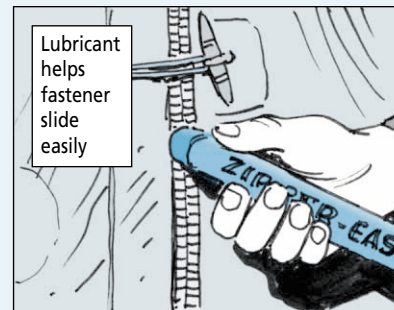
During winter, use steel pins

## Ropes and Fasteners

Draw tent ropes tight to stand up to high winds. But when the weather's wet, they need some slack to allow for shrinkage.



Don't get stuck with a slide fastener that won't slide. Slide fastener lubricant, NSN 9150-00-999-7548, unsticks them.



## Canvas

On frame-type tents, sometimes it's hard to stretch cold canvas completely over the frame. Never force it. Lay it over the frame and secure it. When heat from inside the tent warms the canvas, finish tying it down.

Careful when you go in or out of your tent wearing extreme cold-weather clothing and boots. The bulky winter gear catches on the door and zipper and can tear the canvas.



## Heaters

Make sure you're familiar with the operation and maintenance of your tent heater before you go into the field. Used incorrectly, heaters can cause fires and leak dangerous fumes.

## Snow

Snow on the roof can bring a tent down on top of you. When fiberglass poles are cold, they can bend and break under the weight of snow. So, shake the snow off the canvas before it gets too heavy. Better yet, clean the snow off with a snow rake, NSN 5120-01-464-6340. It has an aluminum telescopic pole that extends your reach to 18 feet. The headshed is working to add the rake to all tent TMs.

## Field Manuals

Finally, read FM 31-70, *Basic Cold Weather Manual*, for tips on tent placement and cold-weather information. See FM 10-16, *General Fabric Repair*, for the facts on tent repair.